

Introduced by Senator Murray

June 12, 2003

Senate Resolution No. 23—Relative to aviation.

- 1 WHEREAS, El Toro was the largest Marine Corps aviation
- 2 installation on the West Coast and operated until 1999 as a military
- 3 airport; and
- 4 WHEREAS, United States taxpayers have spent billions of
- 5 dollars since 1943 to develop the El Toro marine base into an
- 6 aviation facility; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The El Toro marine base is a 4,700 acre closed
- 8 military base with two 10,000 foot and two 8,000 foot runways,
- 9 surrounded by 14,000 acres of land which provide a noise buffer;
- 10 and
- 11 WHEREAS, Los Angeles World Airports owns and operates
- 12 four airports in two counties; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), located
- 14 on 3,500 acres, which currently serves 60 million passengers per
- 15 year and ships over 2 million tons of air cargo annually, is the
- 16 primary airport for southern California; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Modern, efficient, and accessible airport
- 18 infrastructure is essential for California to remain competitive in
- 19 the global economy; and
- 20 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles desires to develop
- 21 state-of-the-art antiterrorism facilities while limiting LAX's
- 22 growth to 78 million air passengers annually; and
- 23 WHEREAS, The Southern California Association of
- 24 Government's 2001 Regional Transportation Plan estimates that



1 by 2025 a regional demand shortfall of 50 million passengers will
2 exist; and

3 WHEREAS, Orange County's residents and businesses export
4 almost 8 million passengers and 98 percent of its air cargo annually
5 to other airports in southern California, primarily LAX; and

6 WHEREAS, Dispersing passengers and cargo from LAX to
7 other airports in the region will blunt the economic impact of a
8 terrorism incident; and

9 WHEREAS, El Toro marine base's existing aviation
10 infrastructure can safely accommodate 20 million passengers per
11 year and over one million tons of air cargo; and

12 WHEREAS, The federal government retains title to the marine
13 base at El Toro and plans to auction the national aviation asset to
14 the private sector for development of homes, commercial
15 buildings and an urban park; and

16 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles has expressed an interest
17 in acquiring El Toro marine base's aviation infrastructure for the
18 purpose of operating a commercial airport; and

19 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles proposes to compensate
20 the federal government with lease payments that would exceed
21 proceeds from auctioning the El Toro marine base to developers;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the*
24 *California State Senate calls upon the United States Navy and*
25 *Department of Transportation to preserve a national aviation asset*
26 *by approving the City of Los Angeles's offer to lease the El Toro*
27 *marine base and operate the facility as a civilian passenger and*
28 *cargo airport; and be it further*

29 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of*
30 *this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*

